

**Juvenile Probation Officer**  
with Mr. David Pelon, 36th Circuit Court, Van Buren County  
Family Division – Juvenile Court

## Keywords

**Circuit Court** – A trial court that handles civil suits involving more than \$25,000 and criminal cases involving felonies (serious crimes). Family issues like divorce, adoption, and juvenile matters are also handled here.

**Compliance** – Doing what a court orders; fulfilling the official requirements.

**Court Involvement** – Having a matter in court, such as a case or supervision under probation.

**Court Order** – A direction of a court made orally or in writing.

**Criminal Justice** – The study of crime and justice, including causes of crime, security, and the balance of crime control and civil liberties.

**Graduate Certificate** – College-level training in a specific area of study.

**Incorrigibility** – Repeated failure to obey reasonable and lawful commands of parents, guardians, or custodians.

**Jurisdiction** – The court's authority to decide cases.

**Juvenile** – Through September 30, 2021, a minor under the age of 17; thereafter, a juvenile is a minor under the age of 18. See [MCL 712A.2](#).

**Juvenile Court** – A unit of the family division within a circuit court that may handle matters such as juvenile delinquency, status offenses, juvenile guardianships, adoptions, and neglect and/or abuse.

**Juvenile Detention Facility** – A secure place that houses and provides services for juveniles before juvenile delinquency cases are decided and/or after a juvenile is found responsible by the court.

**Juvenile Delinquency** – Criminal offenses committed by juveniles.

**Juvenile Justice** – Criminal justice specific to juveniles.

**Juvenile Probation Officer** – A professional who supervises and reports on youth who are on probation and works with their families.

**Major** – A field of study at the undergraduate level with requirements to assure a student has a particular level of knowledge.

**Master's Degree in Judicial Administration** – An advanced degree for individuals interested in managing courts.

**Service Provider** – A person, agency, or organization that conducts and monitors a juvenile's treatment intervention.

**Status Offense** – A violation of the juvenile code by a minor that would not be considered a crime if committed by an adult. Examples: runaway, school truancy, incorrigibility, etc.

**Treatment** – Services provided by professionals to address issues such as drug abuse or mental health that affect a juvenile's day-to-day life and decision-making.

**Truancy** – Willful and repeated absence from school or other learning programs, or repeated breaking of school rules.

**Youth Specialist** – Professional who works with minors in a juvenile detention facility.

For more definitions, see the Michigan Judicial Institute's [Handbook of Legal Terms](#).